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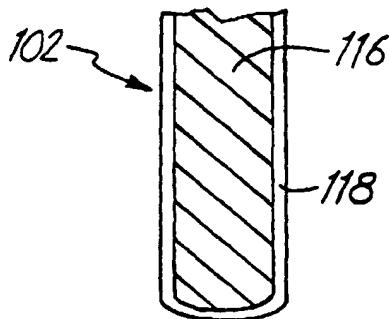
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For two-letter codes and other abbreviations, refer to the "Guidance Notes on Codes and Abbreviations" appearing at the beginning of each regular issue of the PCT Gazette.

(54) Title: MEDICAL ARTICLE WITH A DIAMOND-LIKE CARBON COATING



(57) Abstract: Implantable vascular devices and implantable cardiovascular devices suitable for contacting a patient's blood or bodily fluids include a polymer substrate that is at least partly coated with a diamond-like carbon coating. The diamond-like carbon coated polymer substrate can be flexible or rigid. Preferred medical devices include heart valve prostheses with leaflets or orifice rings formed from diamond-like carbon coated polymer materials. Preferred approaches for the deposition of the diamond-like carbon coating are performed at low pressures and include ion beam assisted deposition.

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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International Application No

PCT/US 00/41968

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER
IPC 7 A61L33/02

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)

IPC 7 A61L A61F

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used)

WPI Data, EPO-Internal, PAJ, BIOSIS, INSPEC

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	<p>DATABASE WPI Section Ch, Week 198450 Derwent Publications Ltd., London, GB; Class A96, AN 1984-309060 XP002181635 & JP 59 192366 A (SUMITOMO ELECTRIC IND CO), 31 October 1984 (1984-10-31) abstract</p> <p style="text-align: center;">---</p>	1-35
X	<p>DATABASE WPI Section Ch, Week 198535 Derwent Publications Ltd., London, GB; Class A96, AN 1985-213086 XP002181636 & JP 60 135062 A (SUMITOMO ELECTRIC IND CO), 18 July 1985 (1985-07-18) abstract</p> <p style="text-align: center;">---</p> <p style="text-align: center;">-/-</p>	1-16, 31-35

☒ Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C.

☒ Patent family members are listed in annex.

* Special categories of cited documents:

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- *O* document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means
- *P* document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed

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- *Y* document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art.
- *G* document member of the same patent family

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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International Application No.

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C.(Continuation) DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	GB 2 287 473 A (FRANKS DR JOSEPH) 20 September 1995 (1995-09-20) page 2, paragraph 5 claims 1-6,19-25 ----	1-35
X	US 5 945 153 A (DEARNALEY GEOFFREY) 31 August 1999 (1999-08-31) column 2, paragraph 2 - paragraph 3 column 4, last paragraph -column 5, paragraph 1 ----	1-35
X	EP 0 302 717 A (ION TECH LTD) 8 February 1989 (1989-02-08) column 1, line 7 - line 14 column 2, line 4 - line 8 claims 1-3,5,6 ----	1-35
X	EP 0 876 821 A (HOWMEDICA) 11 November 1998 (1998-11-11) claims page 2, line 49 - line 53 page 3, line 23 - line 46 -----	1-35

FURTHER INFORMATION CONTINUED FROM PCT/SA/ 210

Continuation of Box I.2

Two group of claims 29-31 are present in the present set of claims. It is not clear which of the two groups needs to be searched. Consequently, both group of claims 29-31 have been searched. However, for the purpose of issuing the International Search Report, the group of claims 29-31 relating to a Heart valve has been identified as claims 32-34. Identically, original claim 32 has been identified as claim 35.

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Information on patent family members

International Application No

PCT/US 00/41968

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EP 0876821	A	11-11-1998	EP 0876821 A2	11-11-1998